

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

C-O-N-F-I-D-E-N-T-I-A-L

REPORT

DATE DISTR. 17 May 1955

REQUIREMENT NO. RD

REFERENCES

This is UNEVALUATED Information

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

ARMY review completed.

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COUNTRY USSR (Azerbaijani SSR)

DATE DISTR. 17 Feb. 1955

SUBJECT Soviet Border Guard Training

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A. GARRISON TRAININGBasic Training

a. Initial Organization

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A training zastava had from 37 to 40 men and was divided into four squads with eight or nine men in each squad. A lieutenant or a senior lieutenant, assisted by a sergeant, was in charge of each zastava; a junior sergeant was in charge of each squad.

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b. Training Schedules

2. The following training schedule was normally in effect from Monday to Friday. The schedule up to 1330 hours was also in effect on Saturdays.

0530	Reveille
0530-0600	Calisthenics
0600-0615	Cleanup
0615-0630	Morning inspection, a personal inspection for appearance and cleanliness
0630-0645	Breakfast
0645-1300	Field training which was usually held in the surrounding countryside, not in the town.

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1300-1330 Cleanup
 1330-1400 Dinner
 1400-1800 Miscellaneous training (see section 3.c.)
 1830-1845 Supper
 1845-2100 Training or individual study which consisted of such subjects as the theory of rifle, SMG, or grenade.
 2100-2200 Free time
 2200 Roll-call and taps

3. All training was given by the CO of the training zastava, his assistants, and the four squad leaders with the exception of political training; this training was given by either the zastava political officer or the political officer for the whole training group.

c. General Subjects of Instruction

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Instructors</u>	<u>Hours per week (approx)</u>	<u>Place conducted</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Chemical warfare	Training group CO, zastavy COs, and NCOs	(2 for the entire cycle)	A range in the field	The use of gas masks was taught and a smoke screen was demonstrated. The entire group was present for this instruction.
Soviet Army and border guard officer identification	NCOs	(2 for the entire cycle)	caserne	Familiarization with rank insignia through the use of charts
Bayonet	NCOs	3	caserne area	Training was by squads.
Movies	Officers and NCOs	2	caserne	Propaganda, documentary, and entertainment films which were shown on Saturdays and Sundays to the entire group from 1900 to 2100 hours
Physical training	NCOs	2 to 3	caserne area	By squads; exercises were on parallel bars, horses, rings, and horizontal bar.
Miscellaneous lectures	Otryad CO, dep. otryad CO, or trng. group CO	4	club	For the entire group. These lectures included talks on the international situation and on other subjects.

4. On Saturdays after 1330 hours and on Sundays, the men had to work on various fatigue details, such as sweeping and cleaning the caserne and unloading cargoes. On Sundays, soldiers had two hours of free time after 1400 hours; after 1600 hours, they continued with details or had individual study projects.

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d. Border Guard Subjects of Instruction

5. Field training was adhered to regularly and conscientiously. On very rare occasions, it was replaced by lectures or by fatigue details. It consisted of the following subjects of instruction:

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Instructors</u>	<u>Hours per week (approx)</u>	<u>Place conducted</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
Border guard training	zastavy COs and NCOs	2	on the beach along the Caspian Sea	Tracking practice, the identification of types and numbers of border crossers determined by the tracks that remained.
Daytime border patrol duty	zastavy COs (rarely sergeants)	18	in fields outside of Lenkoran'	Lectures, questions and answers, and practical application. The instruction manual could be handled only by officers.
Night border patrol duty	zastavy COs	6	" "	Given two or three times each week from 1900 to 2100 hours. Supper was postponed when these classes were held.
Camouflage techniques for border patrols	zastavy COs and NCOs	unknown	unknown	unknown
Individual tactics	COs and NCOs	12 to 14	" "	Consisted mainly of digging fox-holes, leaping from trench to trench, crawling on the ground, and throwing hand grenades.
Squad to Company tactics	zastavy COs and NCOs	1	" "	Covered attack and defense
Practice firing from trenches	zastavy COs and NCOs	8 hours during training	rifle range	Blanks were fired.
Live-round target firing with rifles	zastavy COs and NCOs; training group CO		rifle range	Three or four rounds were fired each time at full-silhouette targets at a distance of 100m; firing was done from a prone position.

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<u>Subject</u>	<u>Instructors</u>	<u>Hours per week (approx)</u>	<u>Place conducted</u>	<u>Remarks</u>	
Live-round training group target firing with SMGs	CO, zastavy COs, and NCOs	see remarks	rifle range	Three rounds were fired each time at silhouette targets at 15-25m distance.	25X1
Familiarization with border devices	zastavy COs and NCOs	6	in fields outside of Lenkoran'	This course was usually conducted with from two to three zastavy present.	
Close-order drill	NCOs	1 - 2	caserne area	With and without rifles	
Political training	political officer	6	in the club lecture hall	Lectures	
Weapons study	NCOs	10-12	barracks	Conducted by squads and consisted of field-stripping a rifle, SMG, and hand grenade.	25X1
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e. Training Inspections and Testing

6. No training inspections were conducted in any of the units [redacted] but occasional questions were asked during lecture periods. The border guard basic training described in the preceding sections was followed by three days of examinations. From 23 to 25 October 1952, the trainees of [redacted] unit took proficiency tests before a commission of 10 border guard officers (one lieutenant-colonel, one major, two captains, and six lieutenants) from the Border Guard District Hq. in Baku. Tests were given in the following subjects:
- (1) Close-order drill.
- (2) Rifle marksmanship. Each trainee fired four rounds at 100m and was required to score over 25 points; the bullseye, or desyatka, counted as 10. Each trainee was also required to fire three rounds at night at a full-silhouette target raised for 30 seconds at a distance of 50m.
- (3) Tactics. Trainees were required to dig a foxhole within a specified time and had to know the dimensions of trenches: [redacted] 25X1
- (4) Grenade throwing. Two live grenades were thrown at a large cardboard target about 25m away. EM wore helmets and threw the grenades from a trench.
- (5) Weapons' theory, which covered such characteristics of the rifle, SMG, and grenade as size, caliber, and weight of rounds.

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(6) Garrison duty and interior guard. [redacted]

(7) Calisthenics. Tests were given on the high bar, parallel bars, and high jump.

(8) Political subjects.

7. Trainees who failed to pass certain tests had to take 10 to 14 days of additional training and then take the tests over again. [redacted]

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Training at the Komendatura

8. [redacted]

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Training at the Zastava

9. At the 11th Border Guard Zastava [redacted]

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[redacted] the EM had about eight hours of border guard duty daily, one hour of fatigue details, three hours of political training three times a week, and from one to two hours of close-order drill two to three times a week. When the weather was good, they also received occasional dry-firing instruction. Firing with live rounds was almost never practiced; [redacted]

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[redacted] There were no calisthenics because of bad weather and lack of time.

10. Occasionally, EM were given an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the HMG or LMG on a voluntary basis; [redacted]

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[redacted] There were also lectures on the theory of border guard duty. Examinations similar to those given in the training group at Lenkoran were given to zastava personnel by officers from the border guard district of the 44th Border Guard Otryad; these examinations were given in the spring and in the fall. [redacted]

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Political Training

11. [redacted]

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[redacted] These lectures dealt chiefly with world geography, life within and outside of the USSR, and the international role of the USSR. The role played by the US was not particularly stressed.

NCO Schools

12. [redacted] the course at the NCO school in Dzhebrail (N 39-23, E 47-02) lasted from six to nine months and included the study of the LMG and HMG, tactics, and border guard duty. Candidates for NCO schools were predominately privates and PFCs who volunteered. When too few men volunteered, the best soldiers were sent involuntarily. After completion of the NCO school, graduates became junior sergeants or sergeants. [redacted]

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Basic Training of Occupation Troops

13. [redacted] some infantry troops had received their basic training in Lenkoran' [redacted] and were subsequently earmarked for duty somewhere outside the USSR, presumably in Germany or in Austria.

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B. SUMMER TRAINING AND MANEUVERS

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1. [redacted] Comment: A zastava is a unit of approximately platoon size. [redacted] the training zastavy were not a permanent part of the 44th Border Guard Otryad but were dissolved at the end of the training cycle that stretched from 5 August 1952 to 22 October 1952. [redacted] all six zastavy followed the same training program.

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